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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/577,128
Response to OA dated January 25, 2008

APR 15 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A suture thread shifting device for insertion by an operating surgeon through an incision portion of a surface layer of a human body wherein even when ~~[[an]]~~ the incision portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the surface layer of ~~[[a]]~~ the human body is small, a front edge of the device has a sectional configuration suitable for allowing the front edge to reach a region in an arthroscopic or endoscopic viewing field and the device with ~~[[the]]~~ a suture thread engaging in ~~[[the]]~~ a front edge thereof can shift the suture thread from a position ~~on the operating surgeon's side near the incision portion~~ to a position ~~remove from the operating surgeon~~ less near the incision portion, the front edge is bisected, the lengths of bisected portions are different from each other so as to be able to catch or disengage the suture thread by rotating the suture thread shifting device, and the surfaces of the bisected portions are smoothly curved.